

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as Express Mail, Airbill No. ER509321496US, in an envelope addressed to: MS Patent Application, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date shown below.

Dated: 3-1-2004 Signature: Colby C. Delgado  
(Colby C. Delgado)

HO-P02877US0  
(PATENT)

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of:  
Mark S. Gasaway et al.

Application No.: Not Yet Assigned

Atty. Dkt. P02877US0/10312703

Filed: Concurrently Herewith

Art Unit: N/A

For: **JOINT CONNECTION AND  
APPLICATIONS**

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (IDS)**

MS Patent Application  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the references listed on the attached PTO/SB/08. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the references be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

This Information Disclosure Statement accompanies the new patent application submitted herewith.

Copies of the references on the PTO/SB/08 are not provided.

The Director is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in the fees filed, asserted to be filed or which should have been filed herewith (or with any paper hereafter filed in this

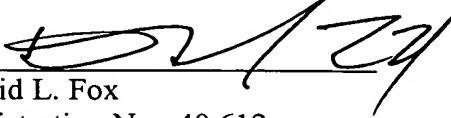
Application No.: Not Yet Assigned

Docket No.: HO-P02877US0

application by this firm) to our Deposit Account No. 06-2375, under Order No. HO-P02877US0. A duplicate copy of this paper is enclosed.

Dated: March 1, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

By 

David L. Fox

Registration No.: 40,612

FULBRIGHT & JAWORSKI L.L.P.

1301 McKinney, Suite 5100

Houston, Texas 77010-3095

(713) 651-5151

(713) 651-5246 (Fax)

Attorney for Applicant

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

Substitute for form 1449A/PTO  <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b>  <i>(use as many sheets as necessary)</i>				<b>Complete if Known</b>	
				Application Number	Not Yet Assigned
				Filing Date	Concurrently Herewith
				First Named Inventor	Mark S. Gasaway
				Art Unit	N/A
				Examiner Name	Not Yet Assigned
Sheet	1	of	1	Attorney Docket Number	HO-P02877US0

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)			
	AA	US-3,232,378	02-01-1966	C.E. Larson	
	AB	US-2,996,790	08-22-1961	R.A.N. Trafford	
	AC	US-3,286,416	11-22-1963	J.E. Ashworth	
	AD	US-3,410,349	11-12-1968	T.R. Troutman	
	AE	US-4,193,584	03-18-1980	Joseph H. Wieser	
	AF	US-4,509,617	04-09-1985	James M. Lapeyre	
	AG	US-4,682,762	07-28-1987	Carl W. Lekavich	
	AH	US-5,149,060	09-22-1992	Roger T. Boes	
	AI	US-5,177,926	01-12-1993	Arie Frankel	
	AJ	US-5,230,597	07-27-1993	Jeffrey W. Nuttall	
	AK	US-5,277,408	01-11-1994	Alton B. Parker	
	AL	US-5,350,155	09-27-1994	Lowell E. Burk	
	AM	US-5,520,475	05-28-1996	David W. Coolman et al.	
	AN	US-5,882,001	03-16-1999	James F. Reinbold	
	AO	US-6,131,286	10-17-2000	Gordon W. Kelly et al.	
	AP	US-6,131,888	10-17-2000	Ralph Wesley Brown	
	AQ	US-6,406,003	06-18-2002	Joe N. Shaw	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T <sup>6</sup>
		Country Code <sup>3</sup> -Number <sup>4</sup> -Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known)				

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant

<sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> See attached Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) or MPEP 901.04. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the application number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T <sup>2</sup>

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
-----------------------	--	--------------------	--

25390480.1